

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action mailed February 17, 2008 has been given careful consideration by the Applicants. Reconsideration of the application is hereby respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended for further clarification of the claimed disclosure.

The Office Action

The Examiner rejected all claims pending the application. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-13, 15-17, 19, 20 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wybenga (U.S. Application No. 2004/0223504). All other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 3 and 18 are rejected as being unpatentable over Wybenga in view of Sundling (U.S. Patent No. 5,785,227). Claims 6, 14 and 21 are rejected as being unpatentable over Wybenga. Claims 9, 10 and 22 are rejected as being unpatentable over Wybenga in view of Oner (U.S. Application No. 2005/0078696).

The Cited Art

The Examiner's primary reference is Wybenga. Wybenga is a method and apparatus for work flow based routing in a distributed architecture router. Wybenga is directed towards a router for transmitting data packets to and receiving data packets from an interfacing peripheral device. The router includes a plurality of processors that exchange data packets with each other over a common bus. This distributed architecture router provides scalability and high performance using independent nodes, including exemplary routing nodes connected by a switch. The switch comprises a pair of high speed switch fabrics. Wybenga also uses LPC drivers which, in turn, uses door bell interrupt to initiate communication between processors.

Independent claims 1 and 17, as amended, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references

The Examiner rejected all claims as being unpatentable under either 35 U.S.C. §102 and/or 35 U.S.C. §103. Independent claims 1 and 17, in particular, were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Wybenga. The Examiner will appreciate that

independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended. It is hereby submitted that the independent claims 1 and 17 as amended are not anticipated by the cited reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include language that reads "a switchless digital communication system for processing at least one of cell and packet information". The switchless digital communication system comprises an interface for coupling at least one of the network processing devices directly with the fabric to support communication between nodes. The first claim goes on to state that the fabric is in direct contact with the other nodes. The Examiner will appreciate that Wybenga does not teach a switchless digital communication system. This is evidenced by the switch 150, Figure 1. Consequently, this places any corresponding network processing devices in indirect contact with the fabric. This is at least in part due to the network processing devices that are first connected by the switch. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

Now referring to claim 17. The Examiner will appreciate that claim 17 has also been amended. Claim 17 now includes the language that states "that the at least one of the system interface and maintenance interface directly connects to a switchless fabric". As stated above, Wybenga discloses a switch fabric at 150 of Figure 1. The switch fabric connects the nodes 110, 120, 130 and 140 so that they are not in direct connection with each other. Both the amendments gain support throughout the disclosure. In particular, through Figure 1, showing an interconnect fabric 30 and Figure 3, showing the interconnect fabric 210. These amendments also gain support in paragraph 50 stating that this routing architecture is in direct contrast with the dedicated switches of other architectures. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections to both independent claim 1 and independent claim 17 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-16 and 18-26 are currently in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims in the application are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 or 17. Therefore, for the reasons stated above, application as a whole is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the other cited references, Oner and Sundling do not cure the deficiencies stated above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections to all claims be withdrawn and a Notice of Allowance issued.

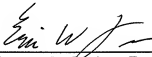
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-26) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to telephone Joseph D. Dreher, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay Sharpe LLP



Joseph D. Dreher, Reg. No. 37,123
Eric W. Lee, Reg. No. 58,857
1100 Superior Avenue
Seventh Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
216-861-5582

May 19, 2008

Date

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any item referred to herein as being attached or enclosed) is (are) being transmitted to the USPTO by electronic transmission via EFS-Web on the date indicated below.

Date: May 19, 2008

Signature: 